

would have voted, "yea"; rollcall 381, on agreeing to the Kanjorski amendment had I been present I would have voted, "nay"; rollcall 382 on agreeing to the Roskam amendment had I been present I would have voted, "yea"; rollcall 383, on agreeing to the Garrett (NJ) amendment had I been present I would have voted, "yea".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote on six amendments to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 378, the amendment offered by Mr. BACHUS. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 379, the amendment offered by Mr. HENSARLING. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 380, the amendment offered by Mr. MCHENRY. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 381, the amendment offered by Mr. KANJORSKI. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 382, the amendment offered by Mr. ROSKAM. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 383, the amendment offered by Mr. GARRETT.

METROPOLITAN POLICE AND FIRE SERVICE ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Metropolitan Police Service Act of 2007. This bill would conform the federal formula for calculating its share of the District of Columbia's Firefighters and Police officers pension to the new 20 year threshold adopted by the District government.

The original bill introduced to the D.C. City Council in 1999 set the minimum to 20 years of service, but then Chief of Police Charles Ramsey asked that the minimum be increased to 25 years. He was concerned that 300 police officers serving on the Police Department in 1999 who were eligible to retire at 20 years might retire en masse. The timeframe for these retirees has passed and the DC government has stepped up to take care of its firefighters and police officers, by resetting the eligibility to 20 years. These firefighters and police officers now request that the United States Congress fulfill its promises to these first responders.

The Federal government made a commitment to pay District of Columbia firefighters and police officer annuity payments that accrued before 1997. Thus, it was necessary when the District of Columbia changed its formula from 25 to 20 years, that the Federal government make the same change for these first responders, so that every first responder has the opportunity for the same annuity payments that accrue at the same time.

This legislation is consistent with what happened in 2000. At that time, the District first

changed the retirement plan for Metropolitan Police Department to permit service longevity payments to be considered part of the basic compensation used to calculate the retirement annuities. Congress then followed suit in 2001, by making the adjustment in the Federal Government's share of the payments, namely, the share attributable to service provided prior to July 1997. Thus, the federal formula for its share of each affected firefighter and police officer then mirrored the formula established by the District of Columbia government.

In January of 2007, Mayor Adrian Fenty signed a new law which amends the District of Columbia formula to provide that eligible firefighters and police officers must complete just 20 years of service to receive their long-term annuity. Chief Ramsey did not oppose the lowering of the threshold. Congress should now proceed, as it did it 2001, to change the federal formula for retirement annuities, so it mirrors the District of Columbia's.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA'S WOMEN VOTER'S

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, during Women Veterans Week, to honor California's more than 165,000 women veterans, whose proud service and unwavering dedication to our country deserve the highest recognition and commendation.

Throughout American history, women have courageously distinguished themselves by their service in the armed forces, even if they were not always under formal military command. Originally, women served as nurses, cooks, couriers, and spies during every American conflict from the Revolutionary War to the Spanish-American War, although it was only in 1901 that the Army Nurses Corps was established and uniformed women were formally incorporated into the military.

The role of women continued to expand throughout the early 20th century, and by the end of World War II, nearly 350,000 women had served in noncombatant military positions, stationed at the frontlines and often targeted by enemy soldiers. In 1948, President Truman signed into law the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, granting women permanent status in our armed forces and paving the way for full integration of women in the military. Each decade since then, women have enlisted in dramatically increasing numbers, taking on increasingly diverse roles as engineers, communication specialists, intelligence analysts, and special forces.

These service members have demonstrated tremendous courage and patriotism, and it's our responsibility to provide them with the strong support they deserve. We owe them no less.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the women of armed forces. Their achievements have made our military the best in the world and their commitment to our country has safeguarded the freedom and way of life cherished by every American.

LARRY WELCH—LAWMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, "The police are the public and the public are police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence." These words spoken by Sir Robert Peel, founder of the Metropolitan Police Force in London, describe the obligation and dedication required to be a law enforcement officer in society.

Peace officers are the last strand of wire in the fence between the law and the lawless. They are all that stands between order and chaos. They are all that stands between the people and the outlaws. Peace officers are the rare breeds—the noble breed that wear the badge of Duty, Honor, Courage, and Service. Larry Welch is one of these Peace Officers.

For 46 years, Larry Welch has served his country and the citizens of the State of Kansas as a law enforcement officer. As a child, Larry knew that he wanted to be a law enforcement officer—specifically an Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI. While most kids in high school were thinking of football games and school dances and the coming college years, Larry was writing to the FBI, inquiring about becoming a Special Agent. After obtaining his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas in 1958 and his Juris Doctorate in 1961, Larry graduated the FBI Academy and became a Special Agent in 1961.

For the next 25 years, Larry served as a dedicated FBI Agent, a career that spanned eight cities and Puerto Rico. He investigated and served the Bureau in a variety of positions, including serving on the protective detail of U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy, shortly after President Kennedy was assassinated. Larry also had the experience of serving in a supervisory position with the FBI, including director of FBI operations in Kansas.

In 1986, Larry left the FBI to become the Associate Director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson, KS. The Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center serves as the headquarters for all law enforcement training in Kansas. By 1989, Larry was promoted to the Director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and was responsible for the certification of all law enforcement officers within the State of Kansas—an incredible responsibility.

But Larry still had his eye on a position with an organization that he had strived to become a member of for over 30 years. Before Larry was hired as an FBI Agent, he had applied to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, KBI. The KBI is the statewide law enforcement organization that provides investigative and laboratory services to criminal justice professionals across the State. A position with KBI appealed to Larry, so a family friend and mentor tried to pull some strings to get him hired; but, KBI refused to waive the 7 years of law enforcement experience requirement and instead Larry joined the FBI. This time, however, KBI was not saying no to Larry Welch and in 1994, he was hired as the 10th Director in the history of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Under Larry's leadership, KBI flourished as one of the premiere law enforcement agencies in the State. During his tenure, KBI increased the number of forensic laboratories throughout the State. KBI's forensic laboratory achieved national accreditation, on its first try, from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors—the first State crime laboratory to do so. Larry's KBI also assisted the Wichita Police Department in solving the Bind, Torture, Kill, BTK, murders in 2004. He has expanded KBI's investigative focus on computer crimes, such as identity theft and child pornography, as well as the rapid growth of the methamphetamine epidemic across Kansas.

I have had the privilege of calling Larry Welch my good friend for so many years. As a former Judge in Texas for 22 years, I have always been impressed by Larry's dedication to the people of our Nation and upholding the tradition of public service. His integrity is above reproach and his competence is extraordinary.

For Larry Welch, being a lawman was his life's calling, and after 46 years, this dedicated and well-respected law enforcement official is hanging up the badge that he has so proudly worn. The citizens and the State of Kansas are fortunate to have his service. In life, there are not many individuals who have the drive or dedication to a career that Larry has had. He is truly one of a kind, and I am honored to pay him this tribute today.

And That's Just The Way It Is.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CASSIE STATUTO BEVAN

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Cassie Statuto Bevan, a woman who has served this House and the welfare of America's children for more than 20 years.

To Dr. Bevan, there was no such thing as liberal or conservative when it came to protecting the rights and safety of children. In her more than 20 years on the Hill, she worked with members on both sides of the aisle to write and pass meaningful, effective legislation that would keep kids off the streets and in safe, permanent homes. Widely considered the "in-House" expert on child welfare issues, there was rarely, if ever a piece of legislation dealing with the care of children that passed without the benefit of Cassie's expertise and passion.

And Dr. Bevan's service began before many of us were elected to serve in this chamber. She started her work in the House of Representatives in 1984 as a staff member for the newly established Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, and after several years, she became the Republican Staff Director. In 1993, Dr. Bevan joined the National Council for Adoption to become the Principal Investigator of the Child Protection Project and to head the Council's Office of Public Policy. In 1994, the Speaker of the House appointed Dr. Bevan to serve as a Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare. The following year, Dr. Bevan returned to the House of Representatives as a Profes-

sional Staff Member to the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means and was promoted to Staff Director at the beginning of the 107th Congress.

In 2001, Dr. Bevan joined then House Majority Whip, Tom DeLay, to serve as his Senior Policy Advisor handling child welfare, welfare reform, and other domestic issues. She continued to serve as the principal staff member to House Majority Leader DeLay on a wide range of issues, including his successful efforts to develop the D.C. Family Court in the wake of the Brianna Blackmond tragedy. Dr. Bevan was the principal staff member on many key pieces of child welfare legislation, including the Inter-Ethnic Placement Act of 1996; the Adoption Tax Credit of 1996; the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999; the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, the D.C. Family Court Act of 2001 and the House passed welfare reform reauthorization—the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2002.

Dr. Bevan's work has also been noted outside Capitol Hill and by many national organizations. The National Council for Adoption, the National Association of Psychiatric Treatment Centers for Children, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse have all rightly honored Dr. Bevan for her leadership in child advocacy.

The House of Representatives may be losing one of our brightest, but her fight is not over. In her much-deserved retirement, Dr. Bevan will continue her commitment to helping abused and neglected children, and will raise awareness as a university professor, teaching future generations the battles she has fought, and won, on behalf of the kids who need it most.

We are very sorry to lose such a valuable member of our team, but I know our work together is not done. On behalf of all the members who have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Dr. Bevan, we wish her the best as she continues her fight outside these halls.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF NORMANDY LANDINGS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to sixteen heroic veterans of the D-Day landing on the beaches of Normandy. On Saturday, May 19, 2007, the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Marquis de La Fayette, M. François Gauthier, Consul General of France in Boston, presented the cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor to sixteen citizens of Massachusetts: George Belesoz, Peter B. Bennan, Espen H. Christensen, John B. Crawford, James H. Curran, Mario J. De Cristofario, Michael Delisle, George DePaulo, James A. Foster, Milton Issenberg, George A. Jonic, Robert H. Lubker, John E. McBurney, Thomas I. Powers, Seymour L. Schnuer, and Riley P. Shirley. These remarkable men were already a highly decorated band of brothers: twelve had earned the Purple Heart; nine, the Bronze Star; two, the Silver Star; and three had previously been

awarded the Croix de Guerre. Representatives of the Mohawk Nation also received honor and thanks for their contribution to the Allied victory.

M. Gauthier read a letter from His Excellency Jean-David Levitte, French Ambassador to the United States, who had returned to Paris to serve as national security adviser to President Nicolas Sarkozy. M. Levitte praised the heroes who, as young men, risked their lives for freedom: They came to Europe because they believed in the power of liberty and democracy; they believed in the power of human rights. They came to liberate populations from oppression and tyranny. And for this we are and we will always be grateful.

I thank the government and the people of France for the honor bestowed on the soldiers and sailors of Massachusetts, and, like them, we must never forget the sacrifices of the greatest generation. I look forward to close friendship and continuing cooperation between our sister Republics as we carry on the struggle for human rights and human dignity.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL HURRICANE RESEARCH INITIATIVE ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Florida, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN and almost 20 bipartisan original cosponsors to introduce the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act.

Although the United States possesses the most capable research enterprise, the largest economy, and the most sophisticated social infrastructure in the world, it remains extremely vulnerable to damage and loss of life from natural disasters. Among weather hazards, hurricanes account for over half of the total economic damage inflicted in the United States.

Since 2001, hurricane damage has cost our nation an average of \$35.8 billion in economic losses per year. Even more, the past two years, hurricanes have caused over 1,450 innocent lives to be lost.

With less than a month before this year's hurricane season is set to begin, now is the time to nationally invest in new research to better prepare, respond and mitigate these disasters.

The National Science Board task force, a 24-member independent advisory body to the President and Congress on national science and engineering issues, recently released a report on January 12, 2007 entitled, Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative. Their report warns that relative to the tremendous damage future hurricanes will inflict, the current federal investment in hurricane science and engineering is entirely insufficient. More than ever before, our nation needs a National Hurricane Research Initiative (NHRI) to provide vital hurricane research to adequately respond to these threats.

I come to the floor today to introduce the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act, a comprehensive hurricane research bill which will improve hurricane research dramatically in